REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 29, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-20 were subject to election/restriction requirement. In particular, the Office Action required that the applicants to elect to prosecute one of the following "species" of the invention:

Species 1, recited in claims 1-8 and 19, directed to a method of processing a data stream;

Species 2, recited in claims 9-12 and 20, directed to a method of compensating drift; and

Species 3, recited in claims 13-18, directed to a buffer for allowing influx and outflow of data in a data stream.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the subject matter of species 3, recited in claims 13-18. Timely consideration on the merits is respectfully requested, and applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application(s) on the non-elected subject matter. However, applicants respectfully request that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office examine all of claims 1-20. Claims 1-8 and 19 are, in fact, directed to a method of processing a data stream comprising a number of steps. The method of comprises, among other things, a step of selecting an initial preload value, with the selecting including determining a product of

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maximum frequency offset between a read clock and a write clock, and a maximum time between arbitrary symbols in a data stream. Claims 2-8 and 19 are dependent upon claim 1.
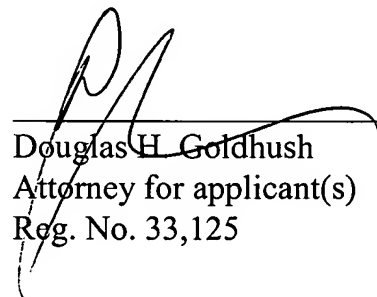
Independent claim 9, upon which claims 10-12 and 20 are dependent, directed to a method of compensating for draft between a write pointer and a read pointer. Among other things, claim 9 recites a step of setting a size of FIFO buffer to include a number of storage cells equal to a product of a maximum frequency offset between a write clock and a read clock, and a maximum number of data units in a data interval defined by two arbitrary symbols. Claim 13, upon which claims 14-18 are dependent, is directed to a buffer comprising, among other things, a number of storage cells, with this number of storage cells being substantially equal to a product of a maximum frequency offset between the write clock and read clock, and a maximum number of data unit in a data interval between arbitrary symbols in the data stream.

Applicants submit that there is no undue burden in examining the subject matter of all of the presently pending claims 1-20. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that the buffer of claim 18 is essentially generic to all of claims 1-12, 19, and 20. It is requested, therefore, that substantive examination of all claims 1-20 be conducted. In the alternative, applicants respectfully request that, upon finding of allowability of claim 13, that all of claims 1-20 be allowed.

Timely consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas H. Goldhush
Attorney for applicant(s)
Reg. No. 33,125

Customer Number 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

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